

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A method for comparing information from a plurality of items on a visual display, comprising the steps of
 - 5 (a) identifying with a common tag, passages in the information for each of the plurality of items which relate to substantially similar subject matter;
 - (b) providing a different display area in the visual display for each of the plurality of items; and
 - 10 (c) displaying in each of the display areas the passages from each of the plurality of items which are identified by a designated common tag.
- 15 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the plurality of items are securities and the information being compared is information about the securities.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the information about the plurality of items is found in reports compiled for each of the plurality of items, and each of the common tags is an anchor link.
- 20 4. The method of claim 3 wherein the reports are compiled by an information server.
5. The method of claim 4 wherein the information server inserts the common tags into the reports.
- 25 6. The method of claim 4 wherein the information server is located remotely from the visual display.

7. A method of providing comparative information in a visual display about a plurality of items, wherein information about the plurality of items includes portions relating to common topics, and further wherein the portions on common topics are identified in the information by identifying tags, the method comprising the steps of
- 5 (a) providing a navigational frame;
- (b) providing a plurality of dynamic frames;
- (c) receiving in the navigational frame a user designation of the items to be compared;
- 10 (d) displaying in each of the dynamic frames the items designated to be compared.
8. The method of claim 7 further including the steps of
- (a) receiving in the navigational frame a user designation of an identifying tag;
- 15 (b) displaying in each of the dynamic frames the portion of the information on the designated items to be compared corresponding to the designated identifying tag.
9. The method of claim 7 further including the step of compiling the information about the plurality of items in a server located remotely
- 20 from the visual display.
10. The method of claim 9 further including the steps of
- (a) sending a request to the server for reports about the items designated in the navigational frame;
- (b) compiling in the sever the requested reports; and
- 25 (c) communicating the requested reports to the visual display.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein the compiling step includes the step of assembling frames for the reports corresponding to each of the portions on the common topics.
12. An apparatus for providing comparative information about a plurality of items, including
- 5 a visual display having an interactive navigational frame and a plurality of dynamic frames;
- a server communicatively coupled to the visual display and storing information about the plurality of items;
- 10 wherein the server compiles reports in response to a user designation in the navigational frame of the items to be compared, and wherein the visual display displays in each of the dynamic frames the items designated to be compared.
13. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the reports compiled by the sever comprise frames of information about the designated items in which each frame corresponds to portions of the information relating to common topics and include identifying tags.
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14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein in response to a user designation of an identifying tag the visual display displays in each of the plurality of dynamic frames the frames from the reports for the designated items corresponding to the designated identifying tag.
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15. An application for displaying comparative information about a plurality of items on a visual display, comprising
- a first routine which contacts an information server to
- 25 request reports on items designated by a user in a navigational frame on the visual display;

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